

allowed themselves to propose. Last night, the President of the United States directly addressed the American people and said: Don't think, just give us control.

When he unveiled the American Families Plan, he spent a great deal of time on all of the wish list programs he hopes will eventually be sent to his desk for his signature but not a lot of time on how he plans to pay for these programs.

I think it is important to state for the record that every program President Biden asked us to endorse has a cost. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates that the American Families Plan alone—this one program—will result in a deficit impact of \$300 billion over a decade—massive costs.

President Biden claimed he can pay for all of this with taxes. He said:

It's time for corporate America and the wealthiest 1% to pay their fair share.

And then he said that 55 of the Nation's biggest corporations made \$40 billion in profits that can and should be taxed.

But here is the problem: Even if they were taxed 100 percent of their \$40 billion in profits, that would pay for less than 1 percent of this administration's proposed \$7 trillion in total spending. And yet how did the President describe these programs? Universal pre-K, universal, free community college—free.

Look at this pricetag. Families won't have to spend a dime, won't have to spend a dime on childcare. The American Families Plan will put money in your pocket.

Now, as I said, universal, free—you won't have to spend a dime; it is going to put money in your pocket. It is taken care of. Don't think. Just take the deal. Do your part.

Where does this money come from? Every single penny that comes into the Federal Treasury comes from the pocket of a U.S. taxpayer. That is where this money comes from. And the debt, that is going to be there for our children and our grandchildren that have to sort it out long after these programs have outlived their usefulness, long after many of us are gone.

We used to talk about spending millions and billions, and now it is trillions. And, to me, I think about my grandkids, and I think about the fact that they haven't earned a paycheck yet. But you know what? With all of this spending this year, they now have \$80,000 of U.S. Federal debt that is their responsibility.

And I think it is instructive for us to look at who is it that actually holds this debt. The biggest holder of our debt—someone goes to market and buys our debt, China. You also have OPEC, the cartel, in the top holders of our debt.

My colleagues, this is an issue—not millions, not billions. This is something—this needs our best efforts and our best attention.

Since his inauguration, President Biden spent a lot of time talking about

unity. At the same time, he talks about eliminating the filibuster and passing legislation to entrench Democratic incumbents at the expense of voters. It is a power grab.

He supported using the budget reconciliation process to ram his \$1.9 billion spending package through, and it appears he may do so again to pass the rest of the multitrillion-dollar agenda.

Last night's speech could have been an opportunity for him to seek common ground with congressional Republicans. Much of the success of our country has had with the COVID vaccination is due, in large part, to Operation Warp Speed and previous administrations, as well as bipartisan efforts in Congress. There was no mention of that.

When the country was thrown into the COVID pandemic, Congress and President Trump passed the CARES Act, bipartisan, and four other major bipartisan COVID relief bills—no mention of that.

If we are going to heal, the Biden administration must recognize the achievements of administrations past and the serious contributions that congressional Republicans are ready and willing to make.

For months now, I have come to the floor to ask my Democratic colleagues to take a breath, to take away the wish lists, and to focus on what the American people need—focus on their needs.

The American people—when I am talking to Tennesseans, you know what they would like? They would like a little bit more money left at the end of their month and not too much month left at the end of their money.

They want the hope that comes from opportunity, not the tangles of an eternal safety net. They are independent. They want a system that will, indeed, help them build their lives back better, as our President would like to say, but all that the White House has to offer is a plan that will flatten and rebuild the country and the broken image of failed policies that people have tried, and they just didn't work.

What they did do: destroyed our healthcare system, pushed tuition at public colleges and universities out of reach for low-income students, and they currently levy massive tax penalties against working-class families who depend on each other and not the Federal Government.

The Biden administration has set some lofty goals for itself. And I have to admit, the end results look pretty tempting on paper; that is, if you don't look too close.

There is a reason why the President has offered so few details about how his ideas would work in practice, and it is because he knows, without a doubt, that if this shows the true cost of signing on the dotted line that the people would not be with him in this effort.

Throughout the pandemic, the American people kept each other safe and took care of their friends and neigh-

bors. When I talk to Tennesseans about church, I can tell what they really have as their values: faith, family, freedom, hope, opportunity. They understand that defending one of those virtues means defending them all for everybody. But they also understand the danger in allowing the government to step in and replace family and community with a bloated welfare state. They know it is dangerous to replace potential with sameness and to supplant community with collectivism.

That is exactly what the Biden administration put on the table last night in very vague, poll-tested language that really said nothing but threatened unprecedented levels of government control. But I suppose from their perspective, you don't need details when all you are really asking your fellow countrymen to do is to submit; just take the deal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. Kaine. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT MAGERS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, one family in Southcentral Kentucky has waited more than 70 years to give their hero a proper tribute. Last year, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, DPAA, identified the remains of Navy Seaman 2nd Class Howard "Scott" Magers from Barren County. Over Memorial Day weekend, a grateful nation will honor this Kentuckian's sacrifice as he finally comes home. I would like to take a moment today to add my personal gratitude for Scott's service and his family's sacrifice.

Those who knew Scott remembered a soft-spoken young man with a kind heart and a winning smile. In January 1941, he enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17. Like millions of other men and women of the "greatest generation," Scott put his own ambitions on pause to defend the country he loved. After completing his training and making one trip home to Kentucky before his 18th birthday, Scott was stationed aboard the USS *Oklahoma* at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

On that Sunday morning, the Japanese forces rained bombs down on unsuspecting American sailors. Torpedoes pummeled the *Oklahoma*, tearing open her hull and igniting an inferno inside. Within minutes, the massive ship capsized, and more than 400 of its crew plunged into the water below.